



ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF FIRE, BUILDING, AND LIFE SAFETY

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OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATION * OFFICE OF MANUFACTURED HOUSING * OFFICE OF STATE FIRE MARSHAL

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Independence Day Fireworks Precautions

State Fire Marshal Provides Important Safety Tips to Prevent Injury and Fire

(Phoenix, AZ)- "The day will be most memorable in the history of America. I am apt to believe that it will be celebrated by succeeding generations as the great anniversary festival. It ought to be solemnized with pomp and parade; bonfires and illuminations [fireworks] from one end of this continent to the other, from this time forward forever more."- John Adams. The celebration of our Country's independence has long been demonstrated by setting off elaborate fireworks displays. Fireworks are beautiful and their power can be easily overlooked. However, the fact remains that fireworks are dangerous and must be treated with caution. The safest way to enjoy fireworks is to attend a professional display, but if you decide to use them personally this Independence Day, keep the following in mind:

- Not all fireworks are legal in Arizona. (see press release "[Not All Fireworks Are Legal in Arizona](#)")
- Although fireworks sales are not regulated in Arizona- cities, towns and counties can regulate their use.
 - Check with your local fire authority to find out whether consumer fireworks are approved or not.
- Kids should never play with fireworks. Sparklers can reach temperatures of up to 1,800° Fahrenheit!
- Fireworks and alcohol do not mix.
- Keep a bucket of water or a hose nearby in case of an accident.
- Steer clear of people and buildings- Remember: fireworks can backfire, or shoot in the wrong direction.
- Never throw or point a firework or firecracker at someone.
- While lighting- Don't hold fireworks in your hand or have any part of your body over them.
- Wear eye protection.
- Avoid carrying fireworks in your pocket, because friction could set them off.
- Only light one firework at a time.
- Never relight a "dud".
- Do not light a firework inside a glass or a metal container.
- Don't allow kids to pick up pieces of fireworks after an event. (It may still be ignited and explode.)
- Soak all fireworks in a bucket of water before throwing them in the trash.
- Keep your animals inside to decrease their risk of escape and injury.

If someone is injured by a firework immediately take them to the nearest hospital or call 911. If an eye injury occurs do not allow them to touch it—this can make it worse! Don't flush the eye, or attempt to put ointment in it. Try cutting out the bottom of a paper cup, placing it around the eye and immediately seek medical attention. If a burn injury occurs—remove clothing from the burned area and run cool, not cold, water over the area. (Do not use ice.) Remember, call your doctor, 911, or go to the nearest hospital immediately, should an injury occur.

Fireworks are meant to be enjoyed. The Department of Fire, Building and Life Safety hopes these tips will ensure a safe and happy Fourth of July celebration for all. Visit www.dfbls.az.gov for more information.

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